

to cover the expenses of remitting the money collected, while in Haikouling an extra five per cent. has been levied to cover all expenses of the management. This is not the *Tak-o-De*, but it is without a question from the high authorities asked the managers to levy an additional three per cent. for office expenses; and when the managers wished that the increase might be only one and a half per cent, the Directors induced their colleagues in Haikou to join them in laying the duties in future in full, instead of at a discount of ten per cent. The result of this change is still greater depreciation, for the rates of the others are more heavy. The writers of the letter say, if their statement be not believed, that a reference may be made to the books of the *Tak-o-De* Office in question. They conclude by remarking that the object of the authorities in increasing the impost is of course to collect more money for the service of the Emperor; but the amount of receipts depends on trade being in a flourishing state and not on the amount of the tax. The *Tak-o-De* is a well-organized and exacting rule, requiring much vigilance. The editor remarks that he cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statements in the letter, but they seem to be carefully made, and the writers certainly have hit the mark in their concluding sentences. If the Lekin taxes are increased while the staples on which they are charged decrease in value, one really does not see how the merchants and farmers can manage to support them.—*Courier*.

TELEGRAPHING EXTRAORDINARY.

The *Telegraphic Journal* of June 1st contains the following paragraph:—The Superintendent of Telegraphs (Mr. C. Todd, M.C.G.) has kindly supplied us with the following information:—On Sunday morning, the telegraph lines being clear of business, Melbourne and Port Darwin were put in direct communication with each other, the distance between the two places being 2,500 miles. The time of the signal was 10.30 a.m. The line was being spliced at the time, and the replies were instantaneous. The cable was then closed, and communications exchanged with Singapore, a further distance of 2,200 miles, or 4,700 miles from Melbourne. Replies were received from Singapore in a few seconds, a message being sent and a reply received in the space of one minute from the commencement of the message. The message had 600 of points to be repeated at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, the time was lost. Port Darwin and Singapore were in direct communication through the duplicate cable recently laid, which avoids the necessity of using the line through Java. Since the duplicate cable has been submerged the time occupied in the transmission of messages between London and Adelaide is greatly reduced, seldom occupying more than a few hours, and from Adelaide they invariably beat the sun, arriving at their destination in advance of the time they were handed in.

We hear that the late discussions in Parliament on Mr. Bradlaugh have increased the circulation of his journal as much as 10,000 a week. A new journal, called the *Imperial Post*, has been started at Constantinople. It is published in the Hindooostani and Turkish languages, is printed at the Government Press, and speaks of the Sultan as the Caliph of India.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY, 3rd August.

Agents.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1872. [121]

Sale of New Patas at \$632 to \$633; and of Hours at \$592. Receipts by the direct steamers, about 2,100 sheets of the former, and about 1,300 sheets of the latter.

EXCHANGE.

On London—Bank Bills, on demand, 3/4%; Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight, 3/2% to 3/3%; Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight, 3/10 to 3/14%; Credits, at 4 months' sight, 3/104; Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight, 3/104; On Bank of Bank, on demand, 2/24; On Gaolers' Bank, on demand, 2/24; On SHANGHAI—Bank, sight, 7/2 nominal; Private, 30 days' sight, 7/2 nominal.

SHIRES.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—50 per cent. premium.

United Numerous Society of Canton—\$1,400 per share.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$1,400 per share, or dividend.

North China Insurance—The 1,075 per share.

Yangtze Insurance Association—The 718 per share.

Chines Insurance Company—\$300 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—The 138 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$30 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$230 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—Par (\$500 per share).

Comptorailia Dock Company—Par (annual).

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—\$22 per share premium dividend.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—The 138 per share.

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—The 100 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$80 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$69 per share.

China Suret Banking Company, Limited—\$190 per share.

China Suret Banking Company (Dabatun)—3 per cent. premium.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1872—Nominal.

SALE REPORTED BY CHINESE.

Flowers—5 bags, at \$7.00, by Min Hing Lung, a travelling trader.

White Sago—50 bags, at \$30.00, by Kwong Fong to travelling traders.

Sugar Candy—50 bags, at \$9.50, by Kwong Fong to travelling traders.

Fauna—10 bags, at \$30.00, by Kin Fong to travelling traders.

Vermicelli—50 bags, at \$30.00, by Wing Lee Ching to travelling traders.

Sharkfin—3 packages, at \$21.00, by Tai Fong Shih to travelling traders.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

From Meers' FALCONER & CO.'S RAILROADS.

August 3rd.

Barometer—9.4.

Barometer—1.4.

Thermometer—5.4.

Thermometer—4.4.

Thermometer—9.4. (Wet bulb.)

Thermometer—1.4. (Wet bulb.)

Thermometer—5.4. (Wet bulb.)

Thermometer—5.4. (Maximum.)

Barometer—Minimum (over 100.)

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

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